



## *Embassy of the United States of America*

Public Affairs Office

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Statement by the President on Cote d'Ivoire**

The United States welcomes the decisive turn of events in Cote d'Ivoire, as former President Laurent Gbagbo's illegitimate claim to power has finally come to an end. This represents a victory for the democratic will of the Ivoirian people, who have suffered for far too long through the instability that followed their election. Today, the people of Cote d'Ivoire have the chance to begin to reclaim their country, solidify their democracy, and rebuild a vibrant economy that taps the extraordinary potential of the Ivoirian people.

In the four months that have passed since Alassane Ouattara was elected President, the United States and international community have strongly supported the results of Cote d'Ivoire's democratic election, and the right of the Ivoirian people to determine their own destiny. These results came after several years of support by the international community for Cote d'Ivoire's peace and democratic processes. The United Nations Security Council, members of the African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have all worked to advance the goal of a democratic Cote d'Ivoire in which the rule of the people is stronger than the rule of one man. The United States commends the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire and French forces for the actions that they have taken to protect civilians.

For President Ouattara and the people of Cote d'Ivoire, the hard work of reconciliation and rebuilding must begin now. President Ouattara will need to govern on behalf of all the people of Cote d'Ivoire, including those who did not vote for him. All militia groups should lay down their weapons and recognize an inclusive military that protects all citizens under the authority of President Ouattara. The victims and survivors of violence deserve accountability for the violence and crimes that have been committed

against them. The international community must continue to support the people of Cote d'Ivoire as they turn the page to a more hopeful and democratic future. In that effort, a democratic Cote d'Ivoire that respects the rights of its people will always have a friend in the United States of America.

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